

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 DUBLIN 00938 171719Z

73

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 IO-13

MC-02 ACDA-19 RSR-01 /126 W
----- 108366

R 171615Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4843
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMCONSUL BELFAST

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DUBLIN 0938

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PBOR, EI

SUBJ: IRA WINS ONE, LOSES TWO

SUMMARY: GOI HAS SEIZED CARGO OF GUNS AND AMMUNITION
BEING SMUGGLED INTO DUBLIN FROM CANADA ON BRITISH SHIP.
PRESS SPECULATES THAT WEAPONS DESTINED FOR IRA OR
POSSIBLY UDA. GOI HAS ALSO SEIZED BOOK BEING PUBLISHED
BY PROVISIONAL IRA. PROVOS SUCCEEDED, HOWEVER, IN HOLDING
CLANDESTINE PRESS CONFERENCE. END SUMMARY.

1. ON JULY 13, PROVISIONAL IRA HELD CLANDESTINE NEWS
CONFERENCE AT HOTEL NEAR DUBLIN. BRITISH AND IRISH
REPORTERS ATTENDED. PROVOS PRESENT WERE DAITHI O'CONNELL,
DUBLIN; SEAN TWOMEY, BELFAST; JIMMY DRUMM, DERRY; SEAN
KEENAN, DERRY; EAMON MACTHOMAS; AND GERRY O'HARE.
ONE REPORT IDENTIFIES MAC THOMAS AS MANAGER OF "AN
PHOBLACHT," PROVOS NEWSPAPER. WE HAVE NO INFO ON GERRY
O'HARE. "LONDON TIMES" REPORT ON EVENT IDENTIFIES SEAN
TWOMEY AS CHIEF OF STAFF OF PROVO IRA, BUT A DUBLIN SOURCE
BELIEVES PROVO LEADERSHIP IS NOW COLLEGIATE AND THAT
DAITHI O'CONNELL HAS MORE INFLUENCE THAN OTHERS.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 DUBLIN 00938 171719Z

2. PROVOS' LINE WAS ABSOLUTELY PREDICTABLE, SHOWING NO EVIDENCE OF NEW THINKING IN LIGHT OF CHANGED NI CIRCUMSTANCES. ONE PURPOSE OF CONFERENCE WAS TO LAUNCH A NEW BOOKLET ENTITLED "FREEDOM STRUGGLE." PROVOS SAID THAT THEY PLAN CONTINUE THEIR FIGHT IN NI WITH BRITISH ARMY UNTIL BRITAIN AGREES TO WITHDRAW FORCES. O'CONNEL WAS CONFIDENT THAT "BRING THE TROOPS HOME" SENTIMENTS IN BRITISH PUBLIC WOULD GROW. HE PREDICTED THAT NEW NI ASSEMBLY WOULD FAIL. ASKED ABOUT RECENT INDICATIONS OF PUBLIC REJECTION, HE REPORTEDLY REPLIED THAT "REVOLUTIONARIES RARELY HAVE MAJORITY SUPPORT."

3. GOI GAVE IMMEDIATE SIGNS OF ANGER AT HOLDING OF CONFERENCE. ON FOLLOWING DAY, POLICE RAIDED PRINTER IN DROGHEDA AND SEIZED PROVOS' BOOK BEFORE IT COULD BE RELEASED TO PUBLIC. ON JULY 16, JUSTICE MINISTER COONEY PLEDGED CONTINUE PRESSURE AGAINST PROVOS. HE NOTED THAT EVEN MASSIVE CONCENTRATION OF BRITISH TROOPS IN NI HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO STOP SIMILAR PRESS CONFERENCE. MINISTER ALSO SAID THAT IT WAS POLICY TO PICK UP PERSONS SUSPECTED OF BEING "GUILTY OF ILLEGAL OR SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES," BUT THEY HAD "GONE UNDERGROUND" AND WERE DIFFICULT TO FIND. HE DID NOT ANNOUNCE ANY SPECTACULAR NEW MEASURES AGAINST IRA.

4. MINISTER WAS ALSO ABLE TO GIVE SOME INFO ON SEIZURE OF SMUGGLED ARMS IN DUBLIN PORT EARLIER SAME DAY, JULY 16. PRESS HAS SUPPLIED ADDITIONAL DETAILS. ARMS WERE FOUND ON A BRITISH SHIP, "MANCHESTER VIGOUR," WHICH HAD JUST ARRIVED FROM MONTREAL. SEVENTEEN RIFLES AND 29,000 ROUNDS OF AMMUNITION WERE FOUND IN A CRATE SUPPOSED TO CONTAIN MACHINERY. ONE OF 17 RIFLES WAS AN ARMALITE. OTHERS WERE SAID TO BE SPRINGFIELDS, WINCHESTERS, AND GARANDS. ONE NEWSPAPER SAID RIFLES ORIGINALLY MADE IN US AND SWEDEN. SHIPMENT ORIGINATED IN TORONTO AND WAS SHIPPED THROUGH MONTREAL TO DUBLIN. LATE MEDIA REPORTS SAY THAT ANOTHER SHIPMENT OF WEAPONS HAS BEEN PICKED UP IN CANADA AND THAT POLICE MAY KNOW OF AN EARLIER SHIPMENT WHICH GOT THROUGH TO IRISH DESTINATION. ONE MAN HAS BEEN ARRESTED IN CONNECTION WITH SMUGGLING ATTEMPT. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 DUBLIN 00938 171719Z

PRESS NATURALLY SPECULATES THAT IRA DOING THE SMUGGLING, THOUGH ONE PAPER SAYS THAT ARMS MAY HAVE BEEN DESTINED FOR ULSTER DEFENSE ASSN, A PROTESTANT EXTREMIST GROUP IN NI.

5. FIANNA FAIL DEPUTY O'MALLEY, WHO WAS JUSTICE MINISTER IN PREVIOUS GOVT, HAS ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS ACCUSED GOVT OF GOING TOO EASY ON IRA. HE REPEATED

THIS LINE IN CONNECTION WITH PROVO NEW CONFERENCE.
O'MALLEY'S COMPLAINT SEEMS MORE POLITICAL THAN
SUBSTANTIVE, AS CURRENT GOVT HAS CERTAINLY BEEN MORE
EFFECTIVE THAN ITS PREDECESSOR AGAINST IRA. IT IS
FORTUNATE, HOWEVER, THAT OPPOSITION IS ACCUSING NEW
GOVT OF BEING TOO EASY RATHER THAN TOO HARSH ON IRA.
SOME DEPUTIES IN FIANNA FAIL BACK BENCHES HAVE
REPUBLICAN LEANINGS, BUT THEY ARE NOT SAYING MUCH.

6. ON BALANCE, SEEMS TO US THAT CAMPAIGN AGAINST
"MEN OF VIOLENCE" IS PROGRESSIVELY TIGHTENING.
PROBABLY, HOWEVER, IT WILL ALWAYS BE POSSIBLE FOR
PROVOS TO CONDUCT SOME PUBLICITY OPERATIONS, SUCH AS
PRESS CONFERENCE DESCRIBED ABOVE.
SORENSEN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 JUL 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: willialc
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973DUBLIN00938
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: DUBLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730729/aaaaavik.tel
Line Count: 130
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: willialc
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31 JUL 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <31-Jul-2001 by kellew0>; APPROVED <23-Aug-2001 by willialc>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: IRA WINS ONE, LOSES TWO SUMMARY: GOI HAS SEIZED CARGO OF GUNS AND AMMUNITION
TAGS: PINT, PBOR, EI
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005